THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The Government have taken several steps for the welfare of the unorganised workers. The Government has recently launched a social security scheme for agricultural labour namely 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001' through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 selected districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers over a period of three years. The benefits under the scheme, *inter-alia*, include life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits to the agricultural workers. About 2 lakh agricultural workers have been covered under the scheme as on 31.1.2003. The Janshree Bima Yojana also provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorganised workers who are below and mirginally above poverty line. About 18 lakh persons have been covered so far. In addition to this, the Government have set up five welfare funds to provide social security to the specified unorganised workers such as bedi workers, cine workers, and certain non-coal mine workers. The benefits include health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water etc. About 40 lakh beedi workers have been benefited under the various welfare schemes under Beedi Welfare Fund. Further, the Government is also implementing various welfare and employment-oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/Departments which cover unorganised workers also. Some of such schemes are: Swaranjyanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Sampooran Grameen Rojgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, etc.

Unemployment

†3045. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment has been on the increase during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey was carried out in 1999-2000. As per these surveys, estimated number of unemployed persons in the country on usual status basis has gone up from approximately 7.5 million in 1993-94 to 9.0 million in 1999-2000.

Creation of Employment and Apex Manpower Development Fund

3046. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indians are to be worst hit by the Saudi job quota of introducing a ceiling on the number of expatriates from a country; and

(b) the measures proposed by Government to create an Employment and Apex Manpower Development Fund to rehabilitate those Indians who would be forced to come back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The fixation of quotas is likely to have an adverse impact on employment of fresh Indian emigrants in Saudi Arabia.

(b) There is no proposal to create such fund because the existing Indian emigrants in Saudi Arabia are not expected to be forced to come back as the Saudi Arabian Government has decided that the number of expatriates are to be reduced so as not to exceed 20% of the Saudi population over a period of ten years, *i.e.*, by 2013.

Amendment in Contract Labour Act, 1970

3047. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act, 1970 in the current session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether adequate provisions have been made in the amendment Bill for labour welfare and retrenchment process and insurance benefits for the workers?